

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2006 (hereinafter "the Office Action") having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 5, 2006.

Applicant has amended the first sentence of the specification following the title to claim 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) benefit of a previously filed provisional. As noted in the Office Action, the claim of priority was initially made in an Application Data Sheet ("ADS") filed with the above-captioned application. However, due to a clerical inadvertence, there was a typographical transposition in the provisional application number. The correct provisional application number is 60/452,143, as indicated in the above-referenced amendment to the specification.

Applicant has filed herewith a petition to the Commissioner for Patents including the required reference under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), the surcharge under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(t), and a statement that the entire delay between the due date of the claim of benefit for priority and this amendment to perfect the claim was entirely unintentional. This assumes in view of statements in the Office Action that it is the position of the USPTO that a claimed benefit of priority is unintentionally delayed due to a typographical error in the provisional application number listed in such claim when made. However, if it is the position of the USPTO that such petition is not needed in view of the circumstances, then Applicant simply requests entry of the amendment to the specification as if such claim for priority were made *ab initio*.

The disclosure was objected to because of certain informalities. The incorporation by reference has been deleted in the amended paragraph [0059], and accordingly Applicant respectfully requests such objection be withdrawn.

Claims 5-12, 16, and 26-31 were objected to because of certain informalities. Claims 5, 11, and 16 have been amended as suggested in the Office Action to overcome the objection to claims 5-12 and 16. Claims 25-28 and 30 have been amended to use first and second terminology. Notably, these amendments to claims 25-28 and 30 are generally style over substance.

However, with these amendments, Applicant believes the objection to claims 26-31 has been overcome. Notably, claim 26 has been amended in part to indicate that the second filtered memory states are translated to the second logic block. Accordingly, for all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objection of claims 5-12, 16, and 26-31 has been overcome, and accordingly Applicant respectfully requests such objection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claim 25 was indicated as being allowed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26-31 which depend upon claim 25 are now likewise allowable.

Claims 1, 2-4, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,668,237 ("Guccione"). Claims 1 and 18-20 have been amended. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claim 1-4 and 18-21 at least for the following reasons.

As indicated in the Office Action, Guccione has equivalency checking as part of the comparison of expected results and the resultant data read back from a PLD. Moreover, because Guccione is associated with obtaining resultant data from execution of a run-time reconfiguration test program responding to test stimuli (see, Guccione, FIG. 2), and thus has limitations associated with a simulation flow as described with reference to FIG. 1 of the above-captioned application.

In contrast to Guccione, each of claims 1 and 18-20 as amended recite the feature that the equivalency checking is of circuit abstractions. Accordingly, circuit abstractions as claimed in amended claims 1 and 18-20 are not a comparison of resultant and expected test data as in Guccione. Moreover, one or more limitations associated with a simulation flow, such as for example runtime, vector coverage, and simulator memory constraints, as in Guccione may be avoided by equivalency checking based on circuit abstracts as claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 18-20 should be allowed in view of Guccione. Moreover, to advance prosecution, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 and 21, which depend upon an allowable base claim 1 or 20, should likewise be allowable.

Claims 5-16 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,668,237 ("Guccione") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,216,257 ("Agrawal"). With this rejection, Applicant respectfully disagrees, at least for the reasons set forth below.

In Agrawal, placement and routing are done followed by a simulation test. (See Agrawal, at col. 13, line 63 to col. 14, lines 15-17.) This simulation test is to determine whether rerouting, replacement, or repartitioning is needed. (See Agrawal, at col. 14, lines 17-25.) Once a final implementation is obtained, the configuration is used for physical testing, and data from such physical testing is used to determine whether modification is to be done at a higher synthesis level. (See Agrawal, at col. 14, lines 25-34.) Thus, Agrawal, like Guccione, uses simulation test data, and then Agrawal goes on to use actual test data.

Claims 5 and 13 as amended, like claim 20 for example as amended, recite the feature that the equivalency checking is of circuit abstractions. Again, circuit abstractions as claimed in amended claims 5 and 13, as well as claim 20 for example, are not a comparison of resultant and expected test data as in Guccione or use of simulation/actual test data to determine whether a circuit implementation is optimal or needs to be modified at a higher level of synthesis as in Agrawal. Moreover, one or more limitations associated with a simulation flow, such as for example runtime, vector coverage, and simulator memory constraints, as in Guccione and Agrawal may be avoided by equivalency checking based on circuit abstracts as claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 13, as well as claim 20, should be allowed in view of the combination of Guccione and Agrawal. Moreover, to advance prosecution, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-12, 14-16, and 22-24, which depend upon an allowable base claim 5, 13, or 20, should likewise be allowable.

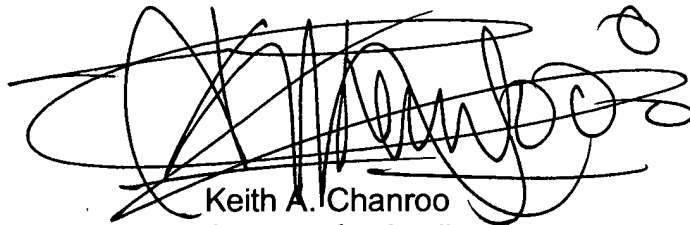
Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,668,237 ("Guccione") in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2003/0200520 ("Huggins"). With this rejection, Applicant respectfully disagrees, at least for the reasons set forth below.

For reasons set forth above which are equally applicable to this rejection, claim 13 should be allowed. Accordingly, claim 17, which depends upon an allowable base claim 13, should likewise be allowed.

CONCLUSION

All claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any questions, the Applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith A. Chanroo', is written over the typed name and title.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on June 22, 2006.

Pat Tompkins
Name

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Tompkins', is written over the typed name and title.